ABSTRACT

A method and structure for reducing search times. The method includes examining the entries in a list in turn beginning with the entry pointed to by a start pointer and continuing until the particular entry is found. The start pointer is then reset to point at the particular entry that was found. The next search will therefore begin to search at the location where the last search ended. Such a strategy increases the likelihood of locating the particular entry faster. The list of entries includes next entry pointers that point to another entry in the list such that the next entry pointers together form a closed loop. If the entire list is searched and the particular entry is not found, the search is aborted.

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